

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-12 /078 W

-----005320 240222Z /41

R 231830Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG, PORG

SUBJ: BRETTEL NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER

1. ON DECEMBER 22, COINCIDENT WITH THE PUBLICATIONS OF MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS ("DESTINOS") FOR THE NEW YEAR, IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT GENERAL RENE BERNAL ESCALANTE WOULD STEP DOWN AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND, ALONG WITH 52 OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS, PASS TO THE ACTIVE RESERVE. BERNAL IS SLATED TO BE REPLACED BY GENERAL HUGO BRETTEL, CURRENTLY CHIEF OF THE ARMY'S ENGINEER BRANCH.

2. IN ADDITION TO CONFIRMING BANZER AS ARMED FORCES COMMANDER AND VILLALPANDO, PEREDA AND BARROSO AS RESPECTIVE HEADS OF THE ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVY, THE "DESTINOS" LIST NAMES DIVISION GENERAL VICTOR GONZALES FUENTES, BOLIVIA'S AMBASSADOR TO PERU, AS CHIEF OF THE JOINT STAFF, TECHNICALLY THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THE ARMED FORCES. (GREATER POWER, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE TO RESIDE WITH THE THREE SERVICE COMMANDERS). GONZALES REPLACES BRIGADIER GENERAL RAUL LOPEZ GALLARDO, WHO WILL JOIN THE ACTIVE RESERVE. OTHER KEY CHANGES INCLUDE THE DESIGNATIONS OF DIVISION GENERAL HUGO CESPEDES ESPINOSA AS ARMED FORCES INSPECTOR GENERAL (VICE MARIO ADET ZAMORA) AND BRIGADIER GENERAL HERNAN TERRAZAS CESPEDES AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

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(REPLACING VICTOR CASTILLO).

3. IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, THE NAMES OF THE COMMANDERS OF KEY COMBAT UNITS, SUCH AS THE TARAPACA REGIMENT, WERE NOT PUBLISHED. THIS INFORMATION, ALONG WITH FULL REPORT ON THE "DESTINOS" AND RESERVE LISTS, WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL BY DAO.

4. COMMENT: BRETEL, A FORT BELVOIR US ARMY ENGINEER SCHOOL GRADUATE, IS WELL KNOWN TO DAO AND MILGP OFFICERS. HE IS JUDGE BRIGHT, COMPETENT, ACCESSABLE AND EASY TO WORK WITH. BOEKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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